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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 33. Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs of international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. At its first part of its thirty-second session the Committee on Programme and Coordination requested the Secretary-General to prepare a new subprogramme on regional and subregional economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean as called for in General Assembly resolution 46/145 of 17 December 1991 and to submit it to the Committee at its second part of its thirty-second session.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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4. The revisions proposed below were prepared in response to the Committee's request. They modify further the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 33, Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1.

5. The following text modifies paragraphs 33.11 and 33.35 to 33.39 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Programme

Paragraph 33.11

Add subprogramme 14 to the list of subprogrammes as follows:

"Subprogramme 14. Regional integration and cooperation".

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 5. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Paragraphs 33.35 and 33.36

Replace paragraphs 33.35 and 33.36 with the following:

"33.35 The problem created in the countries of the region by the high level of external debt service and the meager inflow of new external capital has placed numerous constraints on their economic and social development. In particular, development financing, both external and domestic, has been severely affected by events in the world economy since 1982. Public and private sources of external financing have greatly diminished, and this situation seems unlikely to change in the near future. None the less, the region is faced with an imperative need for structural changes to enable it to maintain sustained rates of economic growth.

"33.36 This situation has coincided with serious problems affecting Latin America's integration into the world economy, particularly the protectionism of industrialized countries, declining commodity prices and the increasing importance of services in international trade. These conditions have also prevented Latin America and the Caribbean from expanding their external trade sufficiently to bring about a progressive reduction in the debt/exports ratio. Special attention should be devoted to the future evolution of this situation."

Paragraph 33.37

Delete paragraph 33.37 and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 33.38 (new paragraph 33.37)

In subparagraph (a)(i), replace "beyond" with overcoming".

In subparagraph (a)(ii) replace "centrally planned economies" with "economies in transition".

Delete subparagraphs (a)(iii), (a)(iv) and (b)(iii).

Paragraph 33.39 (new paragraph 33.38)

In subparagraph (a)(iii), delete the second sentence.

In subparagraph (b)(ii), replace "indebtness of" with "borrowing by".

Delete subparagraph (c)(iii).

Insert new subprogramme 14 as follows:

SUBPROGRAMME 14. REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION

(a) Objectives

33.96 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 46/145 and ECLAC resolutions 368 (XVII), 475 (PLEN.18), 430 (XIX), 438 (XIX), 439 (XIX), 458 (XX), 486 (XXI) and 497 (XXII).

33.97 The subprogramme focuses on the study and evaluation of various aspects of integration and cooperation among Latin American countries as an effective mode of economic and operational organization in the region. Accordingly, it seeks to promote the exchange of experiences in a number of areas of common interest, such as economic and social planning, science and technology, social development, population, international trade and natural resource and environmental management.

33.98 If Latin America and the Caribbean were in a better economic and political position, they would be able to speed up the process of regional integration and cooperation, as well as South-South cooperation. The after-effects of the economic crisis of the 1980s - especially as a result of the economic strangulation caused by the external debt, the deterioration of the region's terms of trade and the protectionism of the industrialized countries - make it all the more necessary to strengthen economic ties among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This will help fortify the region's position in the world economy and revitalize its economic and social development. Special attention should be devoted to the need to consolidate Latin American positions in the various world forums for negotiations concerning Latin America's integration into the world economy.

33.99 The subprogramme's objectives will be as follows:

(a) To promote the full utilization of the multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms contained in regional and subregional integration and cooperation schemes with a view to expanding intraregional trade;

(b) To support Member States in the formation of united regional positions in the various forums for multilateral negotiations in which they participate;

(c) To advise the countries of the region on financial integration, particularly with a view to the development of institutions to facilitate the allocation of investment resources in the region;

(d) To promote the exchange of experience in various areas of common interest, especially economic and social planning, science and technology, social development, international trade and natural resource and environmental management in both intraregional and interregional terms.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

33.100 The Secretariat will carry out the following activities in relation to the subprogramme:

(a) Publication of technical studies on the progress of Latin American and Caribbean integration and proposal for solving major problems identified; the potential convergence of bilateral and subregional agreements towards a greater degree of multilateralism in the region; cooperation and advisory services to the countries of the region on given topics; and economic cooperation between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and other developing countries and regions;

(b) Seminars for governmental experts and officials of regional organizations for the purpose of considering appropriate lines of action;

(c) Technical assistance to the countries and to integration and cooperation agencies of the region regarding the study of the main policies and practices in use in bilateral and multilateral regions on regional integration and South-South cooperation;

(d) Formulation of proposals for regional financial cooperation to further economic integration and reducing the countries' need for external resources.